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Every winter, snow and ice are a major cause of crashes with injuries on Indiana roads.

Unless you absolutely must travel, the best way to stay safe during a snow or ice storm is to stay off the roads.

Nonessential trips on slick roads can unnecessarily jeopardize your safety, and the safety of any emergency responders who must come to your aid if you become stranded or involved in a crash.

If you must travel during a snow or ice storm, don't leave your home unprepared.

Carry a cell phone and car charger, and a small emergency preparedness kit with blankets, extra water and snacks, a small shovel and other items that may be helpful if you find yourself stuck or stranded on the road.

Always allow extra space between you and other vehicles and remember "ice and snow—take it slow!"

For more information about traveling safely this winter visit WinterDrivingSafety.in.gov.

This message is brought to you by the National Weather Service, Indiana public safety agencies and the American Red Cross.

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Did you know that here in Indiana, November 19th is the average first date of measurable snowfall?

Since heavy snow and ice storms can leave your home without power or heat for days, you need to have a plan for staying warm.

Learn how to maintain and use space heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves and other alternative heating sources safely at GetPrepared.in.gov.

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For the second winter in a row, Indiana will be affected by a La Niña weather pattern.

Officials with the National Weather Service say this is likely to produce some very cold spells with more than normal rain, sleet and/or snow.

Learn how to build an emergency preparedness kit and find out how much food, water and other supplies you should have on hand this winter at GetPrepared.in.gov and indyredcross.org.

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